

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILLED WEEKLY BY THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

The Insurrection in Cuba.

From the N. Y. Herald. The despatches which we published yesterday from Cuba show that the revolutionists are by no means discouraged; but that the revolutionary contagion is spreading into the island. From day to day the conflicting reports from the "seat of war" would make it very difficult to understand the situation of affairs on the island if we did not know the source from which most of the information comes and the motive for misrepresentation.

Does the suppression of freedom of the press and other extreme repressive measures show that there is not vitality in the insurrection? Any little success on the part of the Cuban patriots electrifies the whole island. This was seen on the fall of Bayamo; for it was followed immediately by revolutionary movements in Matanzas, Cardenas, even in Havana itself, and in other cities and towns throughout the island. This shows unmistakably that the revolutionary fire is deep-seated, widespread, and ready to burst forth into action with the least prospect of success.

The Spanish Government, too, is strengthening itself undoubtably, and the conflict may be a terrible one. But if the Cubans should be united and resolved to acquire their independence, they can succeed. They have, in the mountain fastnesses and abundant resources of food in the Eastern Department, the means of a prolonged existence. They would acquire military experience in time, and both men and the material would come to them. Spain is in a revolutionary condition, and will have enough to do at home, probably, to prevent any powerful effort being made to hold Cuba. The Cubans can have no hope of freedom or exemption from grinding taxation from the mother country, whatever may be the form of government ultimately established there.

Under Spanish rule there will always be an enormous revenue squeezed from them to support the Spanish Government and a host of hungry colonial officials. They can never have a finer opportunity to acquire their independence. The hour has struck, if they know it and will take advantage of the time. They ought not to let slavery or any other question divide or hinder them from attaining independence. Slavery is doomed, whatever may happen and whether they remain a colony or be independent. They had better acknowledge this fact, therefore, and unite upon the one idea of independence, irrespective of all other issues, and follow the example of Lincoln's emancipation proclamation.

But what should be the policy of the United States with regard to Cuba and the Cuban revolution? There is no question about the sentiment of the American people. They are in favor of Cuban independence and of the independence of the whole of North America from monarchical and European rule. Apart, however, from mere sentiment, it is the policy of this country to aid as far as it can every movement tending to disconnect this continent and surrounding islands from European control. In this way will our commerce and American ideas be extended. Cuba independent of Spain, for example, would prove far more valuable to us in a commercial point of view than it is now. Besides, it is the inevitable destiny of that island, and of the rest of North America, to ultimately fall into our political system and to be united with us. It is the first duty of our statesmen, then, to watch the signs of the times and to seize every fair opportunity of carrying out the destiny of our country. We owe nothing to Spain or the other nations of Europe for our political existence. They insidiously endeavored to dismember the republic and to plant an imperial monarchy on our border when we were plunged in a terrible civil war, and Spain was one of the enemies. It has been our policy to sympathize with every people struggling for liberty. Shall we renege this to the Cubans, a people terribly oppressed and our near neighbors? The Government should at once ascertain from the Cubans themselves what prospect they have of success, and then if justifiable in doing so, should recognize them as belligerents. We do not urge this in the way of retaliation, but in sympathy with a people struggling for freedom and upon that broad principle of American policy to which we have adhered. If the Cubans have a chance of acquiring their independence, we ought to favor the movement.

The Reduction of the Army.

From the N. Y. Times. The propositions of the House Military Committee for the reduction of the army are now before the country. They consist mainly of two features—one, a reduction of the number of regiments; the other, a reduction, by consolidation, in the number of staff officers at all grades. The War Department, which has itself recommended a reduction, has reported that the artillery and cavalry cannot safely be brought below their present strength.

While all parties in the House are in favor of reduction, and even agree in general upon its amount, there is a wide difference of opinion as to the proper method of effecting it.

The Chairman of the Military Committee takes the ground that the reduction should be prospective and by absorption; that the strength and composition of the force to be permanently maintained should be fixed; and that the change from the present to the future organization should be made in the case of officers, at least, by *seniority*—that is, by the natural attrition through deaths, resignations, and dismissals from the service—stopping, meanwhile, and till the reduced organization is reached, promotions and appointments.

On the other hand, Messrs. Butler, Logan, and other ex-officers of the volunteer forces take the ground that as they were mustered into the service at a particular time, the same rule should be applied to the summary process of the regular army, whenever the number of enlisted men reduces them, for the time being, to the condition of supernumeraries.

The radical difference between these two opinions is, evidently, that the one is based on the theory that a regular military establishment is necessary to any well-organized State, whatever be its form of government, while the other denies that such a force is necessary in any country; it holds that, on the contrary, it is always possible to gather as large, well-educated, well-informed and disciplined an army of officers and men from the body of the people as any exigency may require, and as rapidly as we may want them.

This latter view obviously ignores, as it seems to us, the universal regret at the opening of the rebellion that our regular force, and above all our body of experienced professional officers, was so small. That time is not so distant that we cannot vividly recall the general determination that the nation should never again be suffered to fall into a condition so hopeless.

It is hardly sufficient to reply that we now have officers enough for a large army. We shall have fewer to-morrow, and still fewer next year; and very soon, indeed, if proper military institutions are not kept up, we shall be again in that weak and unprepared condition which entailed on us so much misery, death, and continuing debt.

Such volunteer officers as Generals Butler, Schenck, Logan, and Banks, we must reflect, never sought military rank and position in the line of professional occupation. They suffered no wrong by being promptly mustered out of the service. Their arenas were different. Thrust them suddenly on a plea of economy out of their political positions and preferences, with no chance of returning, and they might look on this matter in a different light. The regular army officer, taken by the Government as a boy, and moulded exclusively to its own purposes, to whom the military life was his career, who spent his youth and manhood in it, and whose praiseworthy professional ambition was to reach a position honorable in the eyes of his countrymen and of his descendants—to him the military profession is all in all. The Thomases and Meades of our army have no prospect or desire, except as officers of our army.

To violently and arbitrarily dislocate and disorganize the body to which they belong, and which bears the records of their honorable careers, is not to do them justice. It is flagrantly unjust to claim that as the country has no need, for the moment, of their services, their career shall end; that after investing a large part of their lives in this vocation, they shall be forced to seek another.

The gradual system proposed by the Military Committee will soon place the reduced force in harmony with the proposed organization, and yet, meanwhile, work no injustice to a body of officers who merit being treated with more consideration than the rude dismissal which has been urged by some members of the House.

San Domingo and Samana—Gammon and Guano. From the N. Y. Times. Congressional jobbers, in the lobby and out of it, are determined we shall have San Domingo. Not that we want San Domingo, or would buy it for a song, or take it as a gift, or be paid for taking it. Nevertheless, the jobbers are bound that we shall take it; if we don't buy it, we must borrow it; if we don't borrow it, we must beg it; if we won't "protect" it, we must "annex" it; if we can't pay for it, we must accept it as a gratuity, nor look the gift-horse in the mouth.

From the N. Y. Times. Seward, it is said, keeps surrounding his house in Washington, night and day, by an armed force to protect his person from the assassins which haunt his imagination perpetually. There are in the United States hundreds of innocent men who have been imprisoned in the most dangerous, not by any law, but by secret telegraphic despatches sent by his orders. Among these hundreds may there not be some who have the will and the pluck to pay the debt of just vengeance which they owe him? That is a terrible question which dings in the ears of his conscience night and day. Waking, it haunts his reason, and sleeping it appals his dreams. The "little bell" which he once boasted he could touch and summon the tools of his malice to incarcerate any victim he pleased, now rings ever in the chambers of his own brain, and peeples it with swarming assassins, and makes him feel that he is a summary vengeance upon his guilty order.

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PATENTS. OFFICE FOR PROCURING PATENTS, FOREST BUILDINGS, No. 119 South FOURTH ST., Philadelphia, AND MARBLE BUILDINGS, No. 400 BRYANT STREET, opposite U. S. Patent Office, Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE. On the petition of LYDIA A. FORT, of New York, praying for the extension of a patent granted him on the 15th day of April, 1859, for an improvement in shuttles for looms.

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GOVERNMENT SALES. PUBLIC SALE OF CONDEMNED ORDNANCE STORES. A large quantity of condemned Ordnance and Ordnance Stores will be offered for sale at Public Auction, at ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Illinois, on WEDNESDAY, April 15, 1869, at 10 o'clock A. M.

CHROMO-LITHOGRAPHS. PICTURES FOR PRESENTS. A. S. ROBINSON, No. 910 CHESTNUT STREET, Has just received exquisite specimens of ART, SUITABLE FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS.

BLANK BOOKS, STATIONERY. JAS. H. BRYSON & SON, No. 8 North SIXTH Street, Stationers and Printers.

LEGAL NOTICES. IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA. Trust Estate of LETITIA C. BACKUS, formerly LETITIA C. COOPER.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA. BANKRUPTCY. At Philadelphia, December 23 A. D. 1868.

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA. Estate of CHRISTIAN B. BALD, deceased. Notice is hereby given that ELIZABETH BALD, widow of the said deceased, has filed her petition, with inventory and appraisal of property, to be retained by her under the act of April 11, 1851, and its supplements, and that unless objections be filed thereto on or before SATURDAY, February 13, 1869, the same will be approved by the Court.

PERSONAL. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE undersigned has applied to the Register of the County of Philadelphia for the renewal of Certificate No. 10,747 for four shares of the Stock of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, issued to Abraham B. Brough, late of Westmoreland County, Pa., deceased, dated the 30 day of December, 1857, the same having been given to JACOB RUMBAUGH, Executor of Abraham Brough deceased, deceased, Pa., Jan. 20, 1869.

DR. KINKLIN, AFTER A RESIDENCE of several years at the Union street, has lately removed to South EIGHTH Street, between MARKET and WALNUT STS., Philadelphia. His specialty is in the prompt and perfect cure of all recent, chronic, local and constitutional diseases of a special nature, in pulmonary, rheumatic, and other affections, and in the treatment of all diseases of the skin, appearing in a hundred different forms, and in the treatment of all diseases of the nervous system, and in the treatment of all diseases of the digestive system, and in the treatment of all diseases of the urinary system, and in the treatment of all diseases of the reproductive system, and in the treatment of all diseases of the circulatory system, and in the treatment of all diseases of the excretory system, and in the treatment of all diseases of the respiratory system, and in the treatment of all diseases of the locomotor system, and in the treatment of all diseases of the sensory system, and in the treatment of all diseases of the motor system, and in the treatment of all diseases of the nervous system, and in the treatment of all diseases of the digestive 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